Investment in power generation by private sector

577. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to counter-guarantee payments due from State Eelectricity Boards, as an added incentive to private sector which is willing to invest in power generation;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken into consideration the experience gained from hindsight of the chronic inefficiencys mismanagement and resulting inability of pay dues on schedule, on the part of State Electricity Boards;

(c) whether in the moves for new capacity addition, Government propose to extend such facilities and support to Central agencies like National Thermal Power Corporation and National Hydel Power Corporation which have built up requisite capabilities in construction, power house management and distribution; and

(d) whether Government have taken into account the fact that the power generation cost in the plants managed by NTPC worked out to Rs. 125 per unit whereas on modest estimates the per unit generation cost by private sector would work out to a minimum of Rs. 2.50?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) A decision 'in principle' has been taken to consider giving GOI counter-guarantee to back up State Governments guarantee for SEBs payment obligations to the private generating companies, on a specific request of the State Government concerned and subject to the State Goverment agreeing to certain terms and conditions.

(b) No Sir. Govt. of India would take account, the financial health and other relevant factors of the SEB/ State Govt. concerned before extending such counter-guarantee.

(c) and (d) The policy to encourage greater private investments into the electricity sector was introduced to bring in additionality of resources for capacity addition in generation and distribution to meet the increasing demand for electricity in the context of paucity of resources with public undertakings in the State and Central sectors inhibiting them from taking up projects for capacity addition. Putting up new projects has been taken into consideration while framing the policy to encourage greater private investments into the power sector, and the cost of putting up new generation capacity was kept in view.

Amendments proposed in the electricity Spply Act, 1910

578. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Conference of law officers of state electricity boards was held recently at Baroda;

(b) if so, whether the Conference proposed amendments in the Electricity Supply Act and also more statutory powers to boards to deal with cases of power thefts; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider to amend the Electricity Supply Act framed in 1910 to deal with situations arising out of nonpayment of electricity bills and effectively face the consumer fora as well as civil courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Gujarat Electricity Board convened a conference of Law Officers of all Electricity Boards on 11th September, 1993 at Baroda. The resolutions of the Conference have

been made available to Central Electricity Authority. In case any further action is required in the matter Government would be prepared to consider the same.

Power shortage during Eighth Five Year Plan

579. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power shortage of 9 per cent and peak time shortage of 20 per cent is likely to continue in the terminal year of the 8th Five Year Plan even in case the target for power generation is achieved; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the details of steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) A capacity addition programme of 30,537.7 MW has been envisaged during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992—97). Based on this capacity addition and the demand assessed by the Cenral Electricity Authority in its Fourteenth Power Survey; the country is estimated to have a peaking shortage of 20.7 per cent and an energy shortage of 9.0 per cent in the terminal year of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) Government is taking several steps to ensure better utilisation of existing capacity and expeditious creation of new generation capacity while simultaneously embarking on an extensive energy conservation and demand management programme so as to optimise he use of available energy. These include renovation and modernisation of power projects, programme of efficiency improvement for achieving higher plant load factor (PLF) of existing plants, undertaking of system improvement schemes and supplementing the public sector resources through private sector participation for creation of additional generation capacity.

Revival of Dulhasti Hydel Power Project by Fersuading Fresh Collaborators

580. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken or have been taken to revive the Dulhasti Hydel Project in Jammu and Kashmir by persuading the French collaborators; and

(b) if so; the details thereof indicating he present position the revised estimated cost and the capacity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The Government have strengthened the security arrangements in and around the project area. Tre French Consortium has been asked to resume work on the project and they have been re-assured about the security environment. The revised cost of the project is provisionally estimated at Rs. 2363 crores and its capacity is 390 MW.

Power shortage in Northern India

581. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern India faced an unprecedented power shortage during the months of August and September this year;

(b) if so, to what extent the power shortage has improved after the rains at the end of September;

(c) the number of States which sufferred power shortage; and